

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

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A1*

1. An apparatus for exclusively binding data to a data processing system comprising:
  - 2 a data storage device in which said data is stored;
  - 3 a battery that provides a binding signal independent of system power supplied to said data processing system; and
  - 4 a binding latch that receives said binding signal, wherein said binding latch is set upon removal of said binding signal.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said binding latch is a non-volatile storage device.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data storage device is contained within a detachable medium within said data processing system.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said detachable medium is a circuit card or a module detachably mounted onto a system planar.
5. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a charge pump within said detachable medium, wherein said charge pump supplies power to set said binding latch in response to removal of said detachable medium from said system planar.

1       6. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a signal line connecting said binding  
2       signal from said battery to a sensing input on said detachable medium.

1       7. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said binding signal is applied to a dedicated  
2       binding pin on said detachable medium.

1       8. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising circuit means within said detachable  
2       medium for detecting removal of said binding signal from said binding pin.

1       9. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:

2           circuit means within said detachable medium for detecting the state of said binding  
3       latch; and

4           circuit means within said detachable module, which, in response to detecting that said  
5       binding latch is set, removes said data from said data storage device.

1       10. A method for exclusively binding data to a data processing system comprising:

2           detachably coupling a data storage device that stores said data within said data  
3       processing system;

4           providing a battery binding signal that is independent of system power supplied to  
5       said data processing system; and

6           in response to removal of said battery binding signal, setting a non-volatile binding  
7       latch that indicates the removal of said battery binding signal.

1       11. The method of claim 10, wherein said data storage device is contained within a  
2       detachable medium within said data processing system.

1       12. The method of claim 11, wherein said detachable medium is a circuit card or a  
2       module, said method further comprising detachably mounting said detachable medium onto  
3       a system planar.

1       13. The method of claim 11, wherein said detachable medium includes a charge pump,  
2       said method further comprising supplying power from said charge pump to set said binding  
3       latch in response to removal of said detachable medium from said system planar.

1       14. The method of claim 11, further comprising connecting said binding signal from said  
2       battery to a sensing input on said detachable medium.

1       15. The method of claim 11, further comprising applying said binding signal to a  
2       dedicated binding pin on said detachable medium.

1       16. The method of claim 11, further comprising detecting within said detachable medium  
2       removal of said binding signal from said binding pin.

3       17. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

4           detecting the state of said binding latch; and

5           in response to detecting that said binding latch is set, removing said data from said  
6       data storage device.

1       18. The method of claim 17, wherein said detecting the state of said binding latch is  
2       processed by mounting said detachable medium into said data processing system or another  
3       data processing system.

1       19. A method for logically binding data within a data processing system, said method  
2       comprising:

      storing said data within a detachable subsystem of said data processing system;

      installing said detachable subsystem onto a mounting site within said data processing  
      system, wherein said installing includes coupling a battery signal to a dedicated connection  
      point on said detachable subsystem; and

      responsive to an interruption of said battery signal to said dedicated connection point,  
      setting a binding latch within said detachable subsystem, wherein said set binding latch  
      results in removal of said data from said detachable subsystem upon a subsequent installation  
      of said detachable subsystem.